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SERVICE DATE - MARCH 20, 2001

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 165X)

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY--ABANDONMENT
EXEMPTION--IN CADDO PARISH, LA

Decided: March 14, 2001

Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F--Exempt Abandonments and Discontinuances of Service and Trackage Rights to abandon a 0.47-mile line of railroad over the Good Roads Lead from milepost 8.21 to milepost 8.68 in Shreveport, Caddo Parish, LA. Notice of the exemption was served and published in the Federal Register on February 20, 2001 (66 FR 10949). The exemption is scheduled to become effective on March 22, 2001.

The Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) served an environmental assessment (EA) in this proceeding on February 23, 2001. In the EA, SEA states that the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) has identified one geodetic station marker that may be affected by the proposed abandonment. NGS requests that it be notified 90 days in advance of any activities that may disturb or destroy this marker to plan for its relocation. Therefore, SEA recommends that a condition be imposed requiring UP to consult with the NGS and provide NGS with 90 days' notice prior to disturbing or destroying any geodetic marker.

Additionally, on March 2, 2001, the State of Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Assessment (OEA), filed a comment stating that a search of its electronic files revealed no record of any potential or confirmed waste sites in the abandonment area. However, an inspector visited the area and observed that the low-lying areas around the spur of the right-of-way were filled with stormwater that was not flowing and will eventually stagnate if it remains and possibly create mosquito infested areas. OEA also states that solid waste debris had been disposed of in certain low-lying areas adjacent to the track. OEA suggest that, upon removal of the track, the ground be leveled or sloped to allow water to drain during wet periods. Therefore, SEA recommends that a condition be imposed requiring UP to consult with OEA prior to any salvage activities in order to prevent groundwater contamination, and identifies John Halk, Environmental Scientist Manager (225) 765-0487, as the contact person.

The recommended conditions will be imposed.

This decision will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

It is ordered:

1. This proceeding is reopened.
2. Upon reconsideration, the exemption of the abandonment of the line described above is subject to the conditions that UP: (1) consult with the NGS and provide NGS with 90 days' notice prior to disturbing or destroying any geodetic marker; and (2) take appropriate measures to prevent groundwater contamination and consult with Mr. John Halk, OEA Environmental Scientist Manager, prior to salvage activities.
3. This decision is effective on its service date.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik, Director, Office of Proceedings.

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary